



The Horse's Mouth

July 2019

Mid season update...

It feels like only yesterday that we were preparing the clubhouse and ground for the new season. And yet here we are just past the halfway point of the season. Lots has happened, on and off the pitch and a brief rundown on all things FCC is provided in this edition of The Horse's Mouth...

Senior team news

The 1st XI have had a tough first half to the league season, winning four games and losing seven. Amongst them there have been some stand out performances from Harry Metters (103*) and Toby Kingsbury (118) against Stirlands, (Glen Bridson (82* against Ansty), Curtis Howell picking up 5 wickets against Littlehampton and Felix Jordan (87*) and Archie Cairns (55*) sharing an unbeaten 149 run partnership to lead us to victory over Bedhampton in the National Village Cup area final. A thrilling last ball win over Rottingdean saw our boys into the last 16 where we came up against tough opposition in the shape of Foxton Cricket Club from Cambridge. Unfortunately, the

long road to Lords (the other home of cricket) ended here but we'll be back again next year...



FCC National Village Cup team

The 2nd XI have had a good first half of the season picking up seven wins and four defeats leaving them in 3rd place. Notable performances with the ball from Ryan Meighan picking up 4-10 against Steyning and Simon Legge taking 3-7 against West Chiltington. Ryan has taken 20 wickets so far this season followed by Ollie Legge on 10. There have been some good performances

with the bat so far this season including 72* from Jamie Lewis against Goring, 77 from John Cox against West Chilton and Jason Nicholls with 77* against Steyning. However, the two stand out batting performances have been Toby Kingsbury's 113 against Steyning and Jon Flower's 122 against Broadbridge Heath.



FCC centurions Harry, Jon and Toby

The 3rd XI are enjoying mixed success so far this season but currently sit 6th in the table. Notable performances so far include Alex Stephens' hat-trick against Barns Green, Nigel Lambert with a 5 and 6 wicket haul and Pete Hughes also with a 5 wicket haul. Batting has been tricky at times this year however Simon Wadeson has hit 243 runs followed by Harvey Keffert with 228. Simon has top scored with 80 followed by Harvey, both during the 9-wicket win against Chippingdale.

Juniors Update

FCC successfully hosted our first under-9s mini festival on 22nd June with 6 teams in

attending including Storrington, East Preston, Littlehampton, Eastergate and of course these guys... 😊



FCC Under 9s

And not forgetting these guys... 😊



FCC All Stars

Findon U9s won both group matches before narrowly losing to Littlehampton in the final. Congratulations to Sophie Whittington, Alex Stephens, Sam Mason and Fin Roberts who have been selected for Sussex county squads for their respective age groups – good luck guys!

And well done to Matt Hawke making his senior debut alongside dad Nick...

Other notable father and son combos this season include Oliver and Simon Wadeson and Nigel and Josh Lambert.



Following our successful secondhand kit sale earlier in the season (£217 raised for the club), we'll be setting up a shoe/boot box swap. The idea being that when your son/daughter grows out of a pair you can come and swap it for another pair from the box free of charge. Please donate any old cricket shoes/boots to your junior manager.

Horses Down Under

Last winter saw three of our 1st XI playing league cricket in Australia. Liam 'Sandy' Freeman was back in his native Oz playing for his home side whilst wicketkeeper Glen Bridson spent a second season playing in Mildura, Victoria and Vice-Captain Curtis Howell played a first season in Melbourne.

As a club we hope to keep on developing ties in Australia to allow our young players the opportunity to experience life and cricket abroad in the years to come, and also maintain our tradition of hosting an overseas player here in Findon.

Our roving reporter spoke to Glen and Curtis about their winter experience.

Q: How did you enjoy your time in Oz and will you go back next winter?

CH: I absolutely loved my winter down under, it was an experience I'll never forget and I'll forever be grateful to the game of cricket for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. I've just been granted a visa so hope to return again this winter to play for Yallourn North.

GB: I really enjoyed my winter in Oz and the plan is to go back later this year for one more summer!

Q: What is the main difference you noticed about club cricket in Australia?

CH: Club cricket in Australia is played with a really strong mentality of winning. Blokes would give 110% for the opportunity to win a game of cricket for the 10 others they share the field with. The sledging is as brutal as they warn you about (particularly against us 'pommies') but it's all left on the pitch and laughed off with a beer after the game. The physical dynamics of playing in such heat and on different types of pitches was a challenge I really enjoyed.

GB: The main difference is training twice a week with big numbers at training and the pitches are very different to play on – hard and quick...good to bat on and with nice carry to keep wicket on.

Q: Has playing in Australia made you a better cricketer?

CH: I'd like to think so, although my injury early on this season has hindered me slightly showing off my skills. I feel like I learnt a lot about my own game and training twice a week helped me develop basic techniques. Game experience is absolutely priceless and also the responsibility of being an overseas player and dealing with that pressure is something I've benefited from.

GB: I would say it's definitely improved my game having to adapt to different conditions.

Q: Glen scored 354 runs at 29.50 average & Curtis 280 runs at 24.54 average. Is that a fair reflection on who is the better batsman or was Glen's league easier?

CH. Glen makes the game of cricket look easy and I wish I could bat like him. However, I would back myself that my off-field antics were a lot more fun and I certainly consumed more Fosters!

GB. Ha Ha! I would say that's a fair reflection

Thanks to Curtis and Glen – we look forward to seeing how they perform over the rest of the English summer and then Ozzie summer. Good luck boys!

Social Events

Sunday 18th August – Friends of Findon

Celebrating the lives of Steve Duffield, Sheila Chapman, Chris Green and Tony Botting, FCC cricketers past and present will come together for a special match followed by BBQ – everyone welcome.

Club Weekend – Fri 23rd to Sun 25th August

The biggest weekend of the year! Camping round the boundary, BBQs, cricket and plenty of socialising. Friday kicks things off with a junior cricket event during the afternoon/evening (details to follow) and family quiz in the evening. Saturday night serves up an 80s disco and Sunday a 6-a-side tournament accompanied by Pimms bar and BBQ.

Drink the bar dry – Saturday 21st Sept

Traditional end of season mop up of bar stock - discounted drinks!

FCC Annual Dinner Dance – Sat 5th October at The Ardington Hotel.

The final act of the season...Get dressed up for food, awards and dancing. Get it in your diary!

Committee News

Key decisions relating to how **YOUR** club is run and how money is spent are made by the FCC Committee but should be informed by our playing and social members. If you have a question or suggestion about how the club is run then speak to your captain, junior manager or Mandy/Toby – it's **YOUR** club so we need **YOUR** input.

- New mobile net to be purchased from Mike Payne Legacy Fund
- New pavilion clock purchased in memory of FCC legend and former President, John Spiers – funded through FCC 150 Club. If
- Major roof repairs completed in May at a cost of c.£5K.